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INFO RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

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SENSITIVE

STATE FOR AF, AF/W, DRL, DRL/AE, AF/RSA, AND AF/PDPA  
LONDON FOR POL - AFRICA WATCHER  
PARIS FOR POL - AFRICA WATCHER D'ELIA

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: NIGERIA: WADE SAYS LET THE COURTS DECIDE ON THE ELECTIONS

[¶1.](#) (U) On April 24, Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade's spokesman El hadji Amadou Sall issued a statement on the Nigerian elections in which he appealed for an end to election-related violence and called on parties to use the mechanisms provided in the Nigerian Constitution to settle disputes. The statement ended, "As for the results, the Government of Senegal will pronounce its views after the legal process has been exhausted."

[¶2.](#) (SBU) COMMENT: During President Wade's first term, his counterparts in the region criticized him for being so outspoken on democracy and human rights issues. For the Senegalese to issue its current statement has become unusual and may signal a renewed willingness to speak out on continental and world issues. We must also keep in mind that Presidents Wade and Obasanjo have often seen one another as diplomatic competitors even if they have successfully acted in concert. END COMMENT.

JACOBS